(b) if not, the assessment of Government in this regard;

(c) whether it is a fact that such weavers have demanded from Government to formulate a separate handloom policy; and

(d) if so, the decision taken by Government on the said demand ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) As per the Handloom Census 1995-96 results, 25.2 lakhs households in the Country were engaged in handloom related activities. Handloom Sector is an integral part of the textile sector and the intererests of the handloom weavers would be taken care of while finalising the New Textile Policy.

Modernisation of Textile Mills

2286. SHRI ONWARD L. NONGTDU: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to modernise the textile mills functioning in the country;

(b) if so, the names of such textile mills, district-wise; and

(c) the details of funds allocated for the purpose by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c) The Government of India, Ministry of Textiles has launched a Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) for Textile and Jute Industries which is in operation since 01.04.1999 for a period of 5 years, i.e., up to 31.03.2004. Any eligible textile/jute unit can avail of funds within the framework of the aforesaid scheme and normal financial norms of the concerned financial institution/bank. It is an open-ended scheme depending on the capacity of the industry to absorb funds in bankable and techno-economically feasible proposals. Government funding is limited to reimbursement of interest at 5% point on the interest charged by the lending agency on a porject of technology upgradation in conformity with the scheme.

Unaudited Accounts of NTC Mills

†2287. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the accounts of National Textile Corporation Mills (NTC) and its subordinate textile mills have not been audited for the last several years;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any financial misappropriation has been found in the textile mills and in their offices located in Maharashtra, Gujarat and other States alongwith the details of the missing assets;

(d) whether any high level inquiry has been made in this regard;

(e) the action being taken by Government to audit the accounts of all departments of NTC; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) The accounts of the NTC mills and subsidiary corporations have been audited upto 1998-99 by the statutory auditors and CAG auditors.

(c) and (d) NTC Holding Company has prescribed a periodic return under which any missing properties are to be reported to the Holding Company. Suitable action including Departmental enquiries, lodging of FIR with the police is initiated in all cases of financial irregularities and missing properties as and when these are detected/ reported. The above procedure is also applicable to NTC mills located in Gujarat and Maharashtra.

(e) and (f) The Annual Report of NTC Group of Companies upto 1997-98 alongwith the audit report have already been placed on the Table of the House.

Viability of NTC Sick Mills

†2288. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had asked for a report on the viability of each of the 120 National Textile Corporation sick mills in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the reports received so far and the main features thereof;

(c) the names of sick mills which are reported viable; and

(d) the steps taken by Government in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTI- LES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (d) On the basis of a unit-wise viability study made by NTC, Government is considering a revised turn around plan for the viable subsidiaries of NTC alongwith the viable mills under them keeping in view the BIFR norms of net worth of these mills turning positive within the period prescribed by BIFR. The interest of the workers will be kept in view in the Revival Plan.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.